

***Hyles gallii* (Rott.) (Lep.: Sphingidae) in Inverness-shire.**

I would like to place on record that two specimens of *Hyles gallii* (Rott.), the Bedstraw Hawk, were seen in an m.v. trap run near Kingussie on the night of 31st July 1990.

I have been told of previous Highland records for this insect with a possible point of origin being Denmark or the surrounding area. Or could they be locally bred after two mild winters? It is worth noting that, although the prevailing wind at the time was from the south-west, the whole of Britain had been subjected to prolonged periods of easterly winds during the earlier part of July.— PETER BAKER, Mount Vale, The Drive, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4BP.

***Leptacinus intermedius* Donis. (Col.: Staphylinidae) at Monks Wood, Cambs.**

I was surprised to read Mr A.A. Allen's recent paper on the status of *Leptacinus intermedius* in Britain (1990, *Ent. Rec.* **102**: 289-290) as I had never had any doubts about this species. However, it did prompt me to check the identity of four specimens standing over this name in my collection, all from Monks Wood in Vice County 31 (Huntingdon).

In my First Supplement, 1965, to the Coleoptera of Monks Wood National Nature Reserve, Huntingdon (1968, *Entomologist's Gaz.* **19**: 9-20), I added both *L. intermedius* and *L. batychnus* (Gyll.) collected in cut grass on 15th June 1965. This record refers to a male of each species. The following day I returned to sieve the heap of grass mowings behind the garage block at Monks Wood Experimental Station and against the boundary of the National Nature Reserve (TL200797). I obtained two female *Leptacinus* which were determined at the time as *L. intermedius* on colour and general appearance. Upon re-examination I can find no reason to doubt or alter this identification. On 9th September 1969 I collected a second male from the surface of an open tank of formalin containing seal specimens belonging to temporary residents from British Antarctic Survey. The tank was situated about ten metres from the site of my earlier captures.

I agree with Mr Allen that Donisthorpe's figures depicting the heads of three species of *Leptacinus* are misleading (1936, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **72**: 269-270 & Pl. V.). The head of my second male widens posteriorly and resembles his figure for *linearis* Gr. (= *pusillus* Steph.), which Allen regards as atypical. My remaining specimens of *intermedius* and *pusillus* all have head shapes similar to Donisthorpe's figure for *intermedius*. Anyone wishing to compare aedeagi of British *Leptacinus* are advised to consult Freude, Harde & Lohse (1964, *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas*, **4**, p.159, Krefeld) where G.A. Lohse provides a suite of figures showing the comparative size and shape of the four species. Lohse's key separates off *linearis*, *intermedius* and *batychnus* on the presence of pronotal microsculpture. *L. linearis* is, in turn, keyed out on its darker coloured elytra and each row of

pronotal punctures not exceeding ten in number. My specimens of *pusillus* are black and two males have 8:8 and 7:8 rows of punctures. In my specimens of *intermedius* the rows of punctures have a tendency to become double resulting in 13:15 and 14:10 punctures in the two males. The two females have 10:9 and 10:11 punctures. In both sexes the fore-body is of a lighter reddish-brown colour.

It was fortuitous that my first record of *L. intermedius* was published in a list of Coleoptera from Monks Wood NNR. Had it not been I certainly did not consider that it warranted a note in one of our entomological journals. I will be very surprised if other coleopterists were not of a similar mind and expect Mr Allen's paper to stimulate them to respond with further records.—R. COLIN WELCH, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 2LS.

### **Late captures of *Hepialus fusconebulosa* De Geer, the Map-winged Swift (Lep.: Hepialidae)**

A single female *H. fusconebulosa* was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at Rhandirmwyn, Dyfed (Site No. 346; OS grid ref. SN782 441) on 18.viii.1990. Reference to the Insect Survey database shows that the normal flight period at this site is between mid-June and mid-July. However, two early individuals were caught on 3.vi.1978 and 3.vi.1982, and there are further late records on 8.viii.1977 and 17.viii.1987.

The total number of records of *H. fusconebulosa* for the entire UK trap network is 4,835. Of the 37 records from the first half of August, 24 are from Scottish and northern English traps. A further seven individuals have been caught during the latter half of August and early September, and all but one of these were recorded at Rannoch, Perthshire (Site No. 29, OS grid ref. NN595 563) and Carbost, Skye (Site No. 50, OS grid ref. NG385 267).

The bias of these late records towards Scottish sites supports Skinner's (1984) statement that the flight period of *H. fusconebulosa* is delayed in northern Britain. Future monitoring may reveal adjustments of the flight period of this species in response to climatic change. [Reference: Skinner, B. (1984). *Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles*. Viking, Harmondsworth].—ADRIAN M. RILEY, Dept. Entomology and Nematology, Inst. of Arable Crops Research, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

### **Convolvulus Hawk Moths in West Sussex.**

J.K. Knott's recording of a specimen of *Agrius convolvuli* L. at Southwater (*Ent. Rec.* 102: 305) prompts me to record my own sighting in our garden in the middle of September. It was flying over an *Escallonia* hedge, and remained around the garden until it died, in a very dilapidated condition, on 15th September 1990. There was a good deal of convolvulus (*Calystegia sepium*) in the hedge, and plenty of petunias in the garden.—R.C. DENING, 20 Vincent Road, Selsey PO20 9DQ.